

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3802

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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SUBJEDT: COMMERATION OF MAOS "YENAN TALKS"

SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF CULTURE HAS ASSUMED MAJOR ROLE IN
NATIONWIDE ACTIVITIES COMMEMORATING MAO'S "YENAN TALKS."
CHIANG CHING IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN IN THIS YEAR'S
ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. USLO IS INTRIGUED BY THE CONTRAST WITH LAST YEAR IN
THE FLAVOR AND SCOPE OF THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES COMMEMORATING
THE CHAIRMAN'S "TALKS AT THE YENAN FORUM ON LITERATURE AND
ART".

2. THE FLEDGLING MINISTRY OF CULTURE HOLDS STAGE CENTER AS
IMPRESSARIO OF A NATIONWIDE OUTPOURING OF OPERA, FILM AND
ART FESTIVALS, WHILE ERSTWHILE CULTURAL ARBITER CHIANG CHING
HAS REMAINED COMPLETELY OFFSTAGE. PEOPLE'S DAILY AND
GUANGMING RIBAO MAY 22 FRONT-PAGED MINISTRY'S PROGRAMS,
DUE TO START MAY 23. THESE INCLUDE FILM FESTIVALS OF THE
LATEST COLOR PRODUCTION OF 14 MODEL REVOLUTIONARY OPERAS,
TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS OF WORKERS'S WOODCUTS, AND TRAVELING
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EXHIBITIONS OF PEASANT WOODCUTS (WHICH WILL GO TO BOTH

TACHAI AND ITS PUTATIVE RIVAL HSIAOCHINCHUANG). IN ADDITION "LITERARY AND ARTISTIC WARRIORS" AS WELL AS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FROM PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMIES WILL BE GOING TO FACTORIES AND VILLAGES DURING COMMEMORATIVE PERIOD TO PERFORM AND WORK--ALL APPARENTLY ALSO ORGANIZED BY MINISTRY. BOTH PAPERS HAVE ALSO BEEN RUNNING FULL AND HALF PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS FOR A PEKING FILM FESTIVAL, NAMING THE MINISTRY AS SPONSOR IN SOME OF THE ADS.

3. AS IS TO BE EXPECTED, THIS YEAR'S COMMEMORATIVE NEWS ITEMS AND COMMENTARIES USE OCCASION AS LAUNCHING PAD FOR OROTUND LECTURES ON DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN, URGING LITERARY AND ARTISTIC WORKERS TO PURGE THEMSELVES OF BOURGEOIS TENDENCIES AND POINTEDLY EMPHASIZING CHAIRMAN MAO'S STATEMENT THAT THE PROLETARIAT MUST EXERCISE ALL-ROUND DICTATORSHIP ON THE SUPERSTRUCTURE, "INCLUDING ALL SPHERES OF CULTURE."

5. USLO DOES NOT HAVE LATEST FBIS REPORTS ON HAND TO SEE HOW CHIANG CHING IS FARING IN THE PROVINCES THIS YEAR, BUT FROM LAST YEAR'S FBIS WE GATHER THAT COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES WERE ORGANIZED AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL AND BELOW, NOT BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND MAINLY TOOK THE FORM OF RALLIES. SPEECHES AT RALLIES IN SEVERAL INSTANCES INCLUDE PRAISE FOR CHIANG CHING'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN CULTURAL SPHERE AND HER "PERSONAL NURTURING" (HUNAN) OF REVOLUTIONARY MODEL OPERAS. THROUGH ALL OF THIS YEAR'S HEAVY NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF ANNIVERSARY THERE IS NARY A MENTION OF CHIANG CHING'S NAME. MATERIALS AVAILABLE THUS FAR SUGGEST THAT THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE MAY BE ASSERTING A CENTRAL ROLE FOR ITSELF IN THE CULTURAL SPHERE, POSSIBLY AT THE EXPENSE OF CHIANG CHING. BUSH

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